

Name _____

“This I Believe” Essay Rubric

	1 - 3 (Basic)	4 - 6 (Below Average)	7 - 8 (Average to Good)	9 - 10 (Excellent)
Thesis/Focus	Belief statement is not evident. 1 2 3	Multiple beliefs are listed with little development. 4 5 6	Core belief is clearly stated with evidence of development. 7 8	One core belief is explicit and developed throughout essay. 9 10
Purpose	Tells a story that is not connected to the belief or does not tell a story. 1 2 3	Tells a story that is somewhat connected to the belief, but is difficult to follow. 4 5 6	Tells a story that is connected to the belief. 7 8	Tells a story that is grounded in the events of everyday life; links to the essence of daily life philosophy and to the shaping of personal beliefs. 9 10
Organization/Transition	Demonstrates limited or no organization; does not stay on topic; limited or no transitional devices. 1 2 3	Demonstrates ineffective organization; attempts to refer to a single topic; transitional devices are limited. 4 5 6	Demonstrates organization; maintains focus throughout; uses a variety of transitional devices. 7 8	Demonstrates unique or effective organization; maintains focus throughout; uses a variety of transitional devices uniquely/effectively. 9 10
Details/Elaboration	Lacks details for the belief or details do not enhance the belief. 1 2 3	Limited use of details; details tell rather than show. 4 5 6	Effective use of relevant details support the belief; details mostly show rather than tell. 7 8	Unique, rich, insightful, and effective use of details to support belief; details effectively show rather than tell. 9 10
Point of View	Uses second person (you) point of view. 1 2 3	Inconsistent use of first-person point of view. 4 5 6	Mostly consistent use of first-person point of view. 7 8	Consistent use of first-person point of view. 9 10
Writer's Craft • Vocabulary • Voice • Tone • Style	• Weak vocabulary; word choice interferes with meaning. • Lacks writer's voice. • Tone is unclear or negative. • Limited or no use of sentence variety. 1 2 3	• Basic or limited vocabulary; some incorrect word choice. • Emerging sense of voice. • Tone preaches or judges. • Ineffective use of sentence variety. 4 5 6	• Consistently varied and effective use of vocabulary; clear and appropriate word choice. • Strong sense of voice. • Tone is mostly personal and positive. • Effective use of sentence variety. 7 8	• Rich vocabulary, vivid language; sophisticated word choice. • Powerful sense of voice throughout piece, appropriate for purpose. • Tone is consistently personal and positive. • Effective use of sentence variety to enhance voice and meaning. 9 10
Mechanics	Errors seriously interfere with meaning. 1 2 3	Many errors that sometimes interfere with meaning. 4 5 6	Some errors that do not seriously interfere with meaning. 7 8	Few errors that do not interfere with meaning. 9 10
Format	Word count is significantly off. Heading has many flaws. Title is missing. 1 2 3	Word count is within 75 words. Heading has a few errors. Title has mistakes. 4 5 6	Word count is within 50 words. Heading is close to perfect. Title is close to perfect. 7 8	Word count is b/t 500-600. Heading is exactly correct. Title is centered and has no errors. 9 10

Overall Score: _____/ 80